

place resulted in nine accessions and closed with good interest.

Brother Wirick reports an interesting meeting held at New Paris, Ind., which resulted in eleven accessions. He is now preaching at Syracuse.

Brother D. C. Moomaw has a very interesting communication in this issue. He has been doing a good work in his field. Ten accessions are reported.

Brother Lyon is fortunate in having such an excellent correspondent as Brother Garber, who can, in his absence, take charge of that part of the work.

Brother A. Byers was recently ordained to the full ministry in the Brethren church. He is ready to take charge of some congregation in need of a pastor.

Brother J. H. Knepper has accepted a call to the Meyersdale pastorate. He begins work there April 1. We congratulate both Brother Knepper and the congregation.

Our readers will be pleased to have the privilege of reading another communication from Brother Holsinger. May the Lord restore him to health that he may continue service for him.

Brother H. M. Lichty in his article, "Affiliation," in this issue speaks optimistically. That is in harmony with our own views, brother, and we believe that all your hopes will be realized.

Last week brother J. I. Hall reported eleven accessions in his field of work. We are sorry to learn that his health, or rather his want of it does not permit him to continue his work in that charge.

The meeting at St. James closed with twelve accessions. Brother Long is now engaged in revival work at Downsville, Md., assisted by Brother Lyon, Washington. That is a good team and we shall look for great results.

Please read the report of the secretary of the National Mission Board in this issue by Brother Cassel. The church has done well but we can do better yet. Let there be a prompt response to the appeal for money to carry on the mission work.

The work in Johnstown, under the leadership of Brother Haskins is progressing very nicely. He writes: "Our meeting is still in progress, eleven more came since last report; look for more. The church is hard at work. Our field is larger after each revival." We rejoice with our brethren in the good work everywhere. May the Lord richly bless all their efforts.

Brother Holsinger has some fears that sisters Ellen Gnagey and L. E. N. Grossnickle, are partly lost to the church so far as practical service is concerned. We think not. Sister Hedrick is still preaching the gospel, and as for Sister Lichty, what if some future day she will tell the people "high in office," the simple gospel of Jesus. The following from the *Meyersdale Commercial* looks that way: Hon. Samuel Lichty, of Lincoln, Neb., now a member of the Nebraska Legislature, stands a good chance of getting the Republican nomination for Governor of that state, and an equally good chance of being elected. His wife is a daughter of Eld. Joel Gnagey of the township and we do not know of a lady who would fill the exalted position of mistress of the executive mansion of Nebraska with more infinite grace and dignity than this daughter of Somerset county.

## Notes and Comments

**The One Cure.**—Is there a cure for all the ills that afflict humanity? Crime in all its diversified forms is prevalent everywhere. Socialists have given themselves to the task of solving this perplexing question. Is there a remedy for it? Where is it to be found? There is one cure and one only, that is the Christ of God. Dr. Striker says:

All the ills of the time have their root in evil. Prosperity comes by obedience to the law of Christ.

The Son of Man knows what ails the world, and he is the only possible cure. One year of universal and absolute Christianity would transform every people under heaven. One year of absolute fidelity to the gospel on the part of its alleged Christians would bring any nation to a transfiguration. What a sight—"theater to men and angels"—would be a real nation full of Christians. Savorless salt! Judgment shall begin at the house of God! God or mammon! Answer us 'even by terrible things in righteousness,' O God—so thou save us from the leaven of the Sadducee and the Pharisee! The day of smooth-bore preaching is gone—rifled guns with utmost penetration! It is time to remember Micaiah the son of Imlah. Oh, that America might become more than nominally Christian, and make a new declaration of dependence upon God.

**Fearing and Being Afraid.**—There is quite a difference between afraid of God and fearing the Lord as the Book teaches we should. The *Richmond Christian Advocate* states the difference clearly as follows:

It is one thing to fear the Lord; it is another thing to be afraid of him. The fear of the Lord, which is said to be the beginning of wisdom, is that awe with which a loving child regards a noble father; such a child is never afraid of such a father. God no more wants us to be afraid of him than we want our children to run from us. When men fall on their faces at his appearing is not his first word, "Fear not?"

**What Then.**—It is said that monkeys are gradually giving out. It will not be many years until the entire race will be extinct. What then will become of the Darwin theory of evolution? It may be a long while before the monkey stage in the process of evolution is again reached. What if man too will become extinct? That he certainly will if the monkey ceases to be. It is difficult even now to supply the missing link, and when the monkey is gone there will be another missing link! What a pity!

**True Religion.**—There is so much of the counterfeit in religion that one is puzzled sometimes to know what is the genuine. What is true religion? How may one know that he has the genuine "article?" Prof. Henry Drummond answers the question as follows:

True religion is no milk-and-water experience. It is a fire. It is a sword. It is a burning, consuming heat, which must radiate upon everything around. The change to the Christ-life is so remarkable that when one really undergoes it he cannot find words in common use by which he can describe its revolutionary character. He has to recall the very striking phases of the New Testament, which once seemed such exaggerations: 'A new man, a new creature; a new heart, a new birth.' His very life has been taken down and re-crystallized around the new center. He has been born again.

**Need of Conviction.**—If there is any one thing needed above another it is conviction and not only conviction, but the courage of one's conviction. Very forcibly does Dr. Parker, the great London preacher say:

This century is dying for a grand conviction. The pulpit that is evangelical must name and challenge the pulpit that is not evangelical. Then we shall have persecution. We shall be regarded as censorious. But we must pay the price. If this age is to be recovered from its love of money, its selfishness, its frivolity, there must be a great challenge, and that challenge must be between the two conceptions of the church.

What is needed today is not better branches, but closer union. The tree supplies the health of the branch, if only the union be the two is perfect.—*Ex.*

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Is it the doctrine of the Brethren Church or of the Bible that the baptism of the Holy Ghost brings persons to that state after which if they sin it is not imputed to them as sin?

We do not so understand the doctrine of the church or of the Bible. There is ample provision made for the child of God that sins accidentally, that is sins without willing to do so. The apostle says such have an advocate with the Father, but such sin must be confessed. "If we confess our sins he is faithful to forgive our sins." Read Ezekiel 35:12-16.

Does the Bible or the church teach that we may have the baptism of the Holy Ghost and not beware of the fact?

The Brethren church has not defined its position on such a question as this, but if we understand the Bible correctly it certainly teaches that when one gets possession of the Spirit and the Spirit possession of him, he will have knowledge of the fact. The blind man knew that his eyes were opened, and no one could persuade him to the contrary. He could not argue with the philosophers, but this one thing he *knew* that whereas he was blind now he could see. This much is certain, when a man receives the indwelling Spirit he is cognizant of a mighty change, tho he may not be able to explain how it came to pass. If we were asked to say, yes or no, to the above question, we would say no.

To what form of church government does the Brethren church hold?

To what is known as congregational government.

Has any congregation in the Brethren church any legal right to expel or disfellowship one of her members without complying with Matthew 16?

Certainly not. The Bible is our only creed, and such an act would be a plain violation of the law by which the church professes to be governed. The Word is our guide in taking people into the church, and in case expulsion becomes necessary, it must be our guide again.

Has any congregation in the Brethren church any legal right to expel or disfellowship one of her members without giving them notice that such action was contemplated, or in the absence of such member, the said member not having been visited as directed in Matthew 18, and not having notice that such action would be taken at that or at any other time?

Our answer to the former query should be sufficient answer to this also. The instructions of the Master are to be followed in all cases of discipline. Yet it is possible to conceive of a case where Matthew 18 could not be applied. This is not the only chapter or discipline in the Bible, and where it cannot be applied, perhaps another scripture can. Suppose a member were to commit murder and leave the community. Would you want to leave his name on the church record because Matthew 18 could not be applied? We think not.